

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona convened in Special Session at 5:30 p.m., October 26, 2004 at the Royal Palms, 5200 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Andrew Kunasek, Chairman, District 3; Don Stapley, District 2, and Max W. Wilson, District 4. Absent: Fulton Brock, District 1 and Mary Rose Wilcox District 5. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; and Martin Demos, Deputy County Attorney.

The Board of Supervisors met with the following officials from Salt River Project to discuss the current drought conditions in Arizona: Salt River Project Board of Directors: Bill Schrader, President; John Williams, Vice President; Bill Arnett, Board Member; Fred Ash, Board Member; Wendy Marshall Hancock, Board Member; and David Rousseau, Board Member. Also present Dick Silverman, General Manager; Dave Areghini, Assistant General Manager, Power, Construction and Engineering; John Sullivan, Assistant General Manager, Water; Kathie Lee, Government Relations; Meg Wuebbels, Government Relations; and Victor Flores, Government Relations.

John Sullivan, Assistant General Manager for Water of Salt River Project presented a handout and reviewed the following topics.

**SRP PRESENTATION OF DROUGHT CONDITION RELATED ISSUES**

- ☐ SRP watershed;
- ☐ SRP reservoir system;
- ☐ U.S. Drought monitor;
- ☐ Salt river project historic drought periods;
- ☐ Five driest water years since 1900;
- ☐ Salt-Verde watershed average precipitation water year (Oct-Sep);
- ☐ Project reservoir system-percent full as of October 1, 2004;
- ☐ 2005 allocation;
- ☐ National Weather Service outlook Oct-Nov-Dec-2004;
- ☐ National Weather Service outlook Jan-Feb-Mar-2005;
- ☐ Sea surface temperature anomaly September 2004;
- ☐ Winter runoff probabilities (Dec-May);
- ☐ SRP water allocation reduction;
- ☐ SRP "blueprint" for Water Management; and
- ☐ SRP "blueprint" for Water Management Improvement.

In describing the watershed area and reservoir system, concerns were raised regarding reduced water tables. Salt River Project provided various maps and statistical data to explain and identify the drought and its effect for the future. It was noted that Salt River Project was developed as a result of the seven-year drought (1898-1904), which began in the late 1800's. Salt River Project has documented that this drought is entering an unprecedented 10<sup>th</sup> year as of this past September. While it was noted, the storage system and supplies are in good shape, they are making reductions to keep stores viable. As to the future of Salt River Project's water management plan, they plan to continue water allocation reduction; resource the CAP interconnect; continue to focus on underground water storage; improve water collection, storage and delivery technology; communicate the message of water stewardship outward and continue to maintain and protect the Valley's water rights.

Water allocations have been reduced for consecutive years. The reductions effect both agricultural and residential users. Some of the cities have requested voluntary reduction from their citizens. Chairman Kunasek indicated that he would have staff review the county's water usage.

**MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK**

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**October 26, 2004**

In previous years, Salt River Project has released (spilled) water to manage an over abundance of rainfall and runoff. In the 1990's Salt River Project released over 4 million acre feet of water which, in today's terms, could be almost four years' water usage.

Bill Schrader reminded the group that a "wet" season could return all reservoirs and dams to capacity quickly. In 1941, Lake Roosevelt was dry; it filled and spilled in one year.

A tree ring study dating back to 1200 was done in an effort to assess wet and dry periods over the course of time for the two watershed areas. Salt River Project plans to work with Arizona State University (ASU) to update this study because the most current data is from the 50's and 60's.

Mr. Schrader reiterated the importance and value of Central Arizona Project (CAP) water. Recent purchases have kept reserves at acceptable levels. He added that growth in desert area needs to be managed carefully to maintain the proper balance of all natural resources.

Chairman Kunasek thanked the Salt River Project Board of Directors and staff for their informative presentation.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Kunasek, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board